

The After-Pale of the Kingdom
455

union of the Empire and Italy, was
content to
recognise a prince with whom that
dangerous
emotion had expired, But darker and
most
lamentable counsels prevailed, and the
Papacy
which had sworn "to root out the race
of vipers"
lured war upon the Ghibelline
King, the lord
of Sicilians," the Sultan of Lucera," and
summoned
Charles of Anjou and Provence into the
deadly
fight. A crime like that which wiped
out the
hereditary and romantic civilisation of
Languedoc
with its mark perpetrated, and again
the narrow
brutal feudalism of North France
triumphed
over its enlightened and native
culture when,
in the plain which the Galore washes
by Bene-
vento, Manfred fell in the press of
battle, His
feti', stabbed to death by French
lancers, flung
excommunicated and without the rites
of the
Church his fet? excommunicated to a ruin and rain
on the banks
of the Rio Verde, is a tragedy that
made even the
most orthodox Dante glad to
think that
twice the wisdom of Pope and
cardinals
then in it Higher Justice which
forgives*
Thin when in February, 1266, Two years
after,
On his fatal expedition,
was over-

whiilined lit $\wedge i \wedge llmmm^*$ betrayed and
taken, and
executed in his «eventocnth year at
Naples. No
utettttdc n*»utint«d to the triumph of
Charles and
thw ttcw Ntrtli French dynasty which
he founded,
It was lhc//»w d bath Ilohenstauien
and Haute-
viilw in Stmlhttrn Italy; after two
hundred years
two princely which had rooted
them-